WILDERNESS

\*TO CARE FOR HIM WHO HAS BORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS."

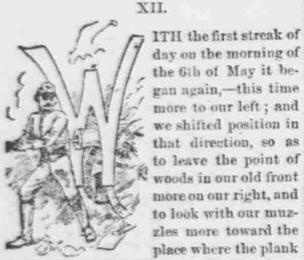
Reminiscences of a Detached Volunteer in a Regular Battery.

Large Scale.

SPOTTSYLVANIA.

A Slugging Match Under Adverse Circumstances.

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day on the morning of the 6th of May it began again,-this time more to our left; and we shifted position in that direction, so as to leave the point of woods in our old front more on our right, and to look with our muzzles more toward the place where the plank

the brush into the clearing, south of the Lacey House. We now got orders to "get the canister ready" and to "retire the caissons," because the unceasing crash of the musketry-which had receded from us the day before-was now steadily approaching; which meant, of course, that the Johnnies were driving our infantry in on the south side of the pike. We had not been here long when the first rush of stragglers began to emerge from the woods in our front, and we could distinctly hear the rebel yell through the brush. The musketry in the meantime beat anything I had ever heard. Unbroken by the hoarser roar of artillery anywhere on the line, it was one solid, savage crash, crash, without the slightest lull or intermission, extending along a line over two miles in length, of which we were about in rear of the right center. We could do nothing, because all the horses this side of Tophet could not have pulled a gun through the brush in which the infantry were fighting. As for the roads, there were only two, the plank and the pike, and they were at that place simply wide paths through

Our artillery had but one chance of work and that was if our infantry should fall back into the Lucey clearing, and the rebels should attempt to force the position at and about the Wildern'ss Tavern. And about would get that chance. The crash and the yells had kept coming our way for half an at Arlington. hour, when suddenly our infantry (Cutler's Brigade-the Old Iron Brigade)

CAME PELL MELL OUT OF THE WOODS a little to the left of our front, in some confusion. They had not been broken by the enemy, but their formation had been destroyed by the density of the thickets where they fought. Then came rapid commands to change front with the left and center sections. frightful battle had been going on to our of the battle. He was a comical old cust and to "fire to the left; load canister-ready." left on the line of the plank road, and from But the narrow clearing was full of Cutler's the sounds we thought our folks were was!" (He had been with Longstreet at Chickdisordered infantry; so we stood at a ready, pieces sighted and lanyards in hand, for several minutes, expecting to see the enemy's there, judging from the sound, and we afterline emerge from the brush. Meantime Cutler's infantry had sagged to the left toward the Germania road, or were seeking shelter of the Second Corps, did fine business in the in the little ravine on our left front, and in a few minutes they cleared a path for our plank. It was rumored up our way about 4

But the Johnnies, when they came to the edge of the brush and saw 22 guns looking at them from the Lacey House knoll. hesitated, and instead of charging, as we expected them to do, lay down in the edge of the brush and began sharpshooting at us our left and rear. But they did not come. and our then rallying infantry. To this we instantly replied with canister, which, after stormed one salient in Hancock's ina few ineffectual rounds, was changed to trenched line, and were immediately driven

had come through brush that men with on fire on the southern edge of the Lacey muskets could hardly penetrate, let alone clearing, the fire extending away to our teams and gun-carriages. I do not know left, and this made us apprehensive for the what we did to them with our canister and wounded of our infantry, who were lying case-shot, but they hit four or five of us in helpless in this brash in great numbers. The the three batteries with their sharpshooting, | fighting in our immediate front-south side though it was tolerably long musket-range. of the turnpike-had pretty much ceased by But they did not seriously follow our broken 4 o'clock; but Stevenson's Division, of the infantry beyond the edge of the brush. I Ninth Corps, had now come up, and went will say here that I have seen it stated in | into the brush in the same place where articles published since the war, in magagines written by Confederate officers, that morning. their troops at this time-Gregg's Texans cut our lines in two at that point and sepa- and were reformed, some in the Lacey clear- the general result, my deliberate conclusion is I have to say that from where our battery to the Germania road, where there was stood we could see half a mile in either di- now quite a line of earthworks. plain sight, and I did not see during the whole 6th of May any rebel more than 10 rods outside the edge of the brush that that if they had "got into the Germania Cooper and Mink and Rittenhouse!

was now toward noon of May 6. The John-

BRIVEN WADSWORTH'S WHOLE DIVISION | would have made a night battle. in; they had killed this grand old man and

clearing. Then the heavy artillery troops came into action as infantry. These heavy artillery were men who had enlisted or had artillery were men who had enlisted or had Sixth Corps. It resulted in the capture of This position, as we afterward learned to our So some of our men went off to the right, where were some of the Washington Artillery, from been drafted to "serve in fortifications." | Gens. Seymour and Shaler, with portions of cost, was very advantageous. They had got the idea that they had made their brigades, and forced the right of the Sixth It seemed that Gen. Warren did not at first posed water could be found. They found both a contract with the Government to "man line they held after repulsing a renewed effort He had Gen. Merritt dismount a lot of his cavearthworks," but did not suppose that they of the enemy. No part of the Fifth Corps, in- alry and form them off to the right of the old would ever be required to capture the "earthworks" that they were to "man." So when this "soft-bread brigade" of Kitch- for half an hour or so, as a successful attack on ing's, as we used to call them, -the 6th and 15th N. Y. H. A., -began to file down the Bush whacking Upon a Very Germania road and deploy on our line left tack was made on our front, and after about Warren was, but it strick me at the time that in front, our irreverent old Regulars inquired | half an hour of



A TEXAN PHILOSOPHER. whether "they had yet been 30 days out of

But soldiers will be soldiers, you know, and so you must forgive the old devils of Bloody B, who had never known what it was to have cover in a single fight, from Manassas to the Wilderness, if they did poke a little fun at the "heavy artillery."

The 6th N. Y. swung close to us as they slowly deployed, and I recognized in their ranks a boy named Peck, who was an old schoolmate. I yelled at him, "Hello, Al: what are you doing here?"

He heard me and recognized my voice, looked back as they swept by us, and looking for fortifications,"

They found them-as the casualty records show more eloquently than words can saylater in the afternoon. Of course we poked fun at the heavy artillery-the "Soft-bread Brigade"-before they had been in action. and reports of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, and the 18th of June | Second Corps front on the Brock road about 10

NO TROOPS FOUGHT BETTER

or fared worse than those same heavy artillerymen serving as infantry. They truly manned earthworks," rebel earthworks; they "manned them " from the wrong side. 10 o'clock in the morning it seemed as if we They got in-and stayed there. They are that the Second Corps was totally out off below there yet, or under the shade of the trees | the plank road. It was impossible to make

No troops fought better, fared harder, or died gamer. The heavy artillery "went in" about 3 p. m., and the enemy fell back through the brush in our immediate front. clearing on the other side of the brush were assailed in their turn and driven back with great loss. During this time another was plenty of work for the artillery down ward learned that the Sixth Corps batteries that were with Getty's Division, and those open ground where the Brock road crosses the has happened to 'em! or 5 o'clock in the afternoon that the line of tersection of the Brock road and the plank, and that the enemy were sweeping up the Germania road toward the Wilderness Tayern. This would have brought them in Of course we know now that they simply out of it by Sprigg Carroll's Brigade. In the Of course, they had no artillery, as they afternoon we could see that the woods were

Crawford's Division had attacked in the AT FIRST THEY DROVE THE ENEMY and Benning's Georgians-"got into the clear out of the brush, and we could see the Germania road and within pistol-shot of the smoke of their musketry rolling up in great Wilderness Tavern." And that, "if they volumes over in the clearing on the other had been suitably supported, would have side. But they soon came back pell-mell, rated the Army of the Potomac." To this ing and others not until they had got back

rection, right or left, along the Germania | Night was now coming on. In our own road, and the Wilderness Tavern was per- front all was quiet except spatting picket-shots. haps about half a mile in our rear, also in To the left things were cooling off, though there were occasional crashes of heavy musketry down there as late as 9 o'clock. But just strange to our troops-largely neutralized this at dusk a fearful uproar set in on our right. just north of the pike. This was not far from fringed the Lacey clearing, and even those our position. The brush here lined the pike didn't stay out of the brush long. I am sure on its north side, and the formation of the ground was such that we could not see the clearing beyond which, I believe, was part of road within pistol-shot of the tavern," there the Spottswood farm. But it was now dusk would have been music by the full band on | enough so that the rapid-flashing volleys over the Locey House knoll, where we were, and there would light up the sky like "heat-lightning" in a Summer night, and we could dis-Well, barring controversy on this point, it firing rapidly swept back toward the Germania road, we knew that the Sixth Corps, on our

To meet this probable attack, sections of Rit-

as above stated. However, it was a trying time | Gen. Warren leading the troops in person. our right flank just at that stage of the con- troops driven back in some confusion about flict would have had a serious effect on the

SCRAMBLING, YELLING AND CRASHING up there (to the right), everything stopped as if by magic. In a few minutes we ourselves limbered up and fell back to the road, where we bivonacked for the night; having held one position, with but little change, on the Lacey House knoll for two days and one night. Our loss had been but one man, wounded-Mate

Freeman-not badly. This battle of the Wilderness was a singular struggle. It was contested for two days on a line approximately four miles long, by about 90,000 troops on our side and 65,000 on theirs, and there was no open ground anywhere wide enough for a division to deploy on. Artillery could have been used there, but only in shelling woods and thickets at random. The battle was brought on by the rebels moving up to us on the pike and plank roads and striking the flank of our column as we moved along the Germania road and the Brock, which intersect the other two at about right angles. The rebels could have but one reasonable object in this move, and that must have been the hope of repeating Chancellorsville. I have seen it stated that Gen. Lee believed that he had us whipped on the night of the 6th, and expected that we would retreat back across the Rapidan or toward Fredericksburg. But that hope was soon shattered. As for the fighting, it was simply bushwhacking on a grand scale, the fortifications or not," and "if they in brush where all formation beyond that of weren't afraid that they were now going to regiments or companies was soon lost, and man some intrenchments on the wrong battle on either side was impossible. I knew a Wisconsin infantryman named Holmes, who walked right into the rebel skirmish-line on the 6th, about the time Wadsworth was killed. He surrendered, and a rebel was sent to the rear with him. In two minutes Holmes and his guard walked right into our own lines, and that in broad daylight. After dark on the 5th four or five men who had straggled from Ayres's Brigade were halted by Bartlett's skirmishers, surrendered to them, and had been started off toward the Wilderness Tavern under guard before it was discovered that they were our own men. During the night of the 5th two men came back to the Lacey House, both slightly wounded. One was a rebel, belonging to Hill's Corps, and the other was one of our men from Crawford's Division. They had got together in the brush; both had lost shouted, "Hello, B-; is that you? We're | their muskets, and as the brush was getting a-fire they made the best of their way out of it together, taking their chances as to which of the two lines they might fall into. A man | ward. named Coombs, of the 44th N. Y., whom I knew, got lost in Bartlett's attack in the afternoon of the 5th, and after dark found himself away down to our left among the troops of the Second Corps, on the Brock road, and he had But not afterwards; because the records passed at least two miles in the rear of the rebel lines, and through them twice, unchallenged. He told me that when he came to the

> ed: "I belong to the 44th N. Y.; who in the - are you?" He hadn't the remotest idea where he was.

> THE REBEL PRISONERS taken on the 6th seemed convinced that we were whipped and must retreat. They had an idea that they had cut our army in two, and them understand that we were only just beginning to fight. I suppose there were hundreds of such instances.

o'clock at night, and was halted, he answer-

One old fellow was brought up out of the brush at the south edge of the Lacey clearing. He belonged to the 5th Texas, of Gregg's Brigade. He had been hit in the shin by a bullet, But the "heavies," when they got to the which had temporarily paralyzed his leg, without breaking the bone, at the extreme point of their advance in the afternoon of the 6th, and so was left in our hands when they fell back. Some of the boys asked him what he thought battle! It's a worse riot than Chickamanga being forced back to the Brock road. There amanga the Fall before.) "You Yanks don't call this a battle, do you? At Chickamanga there was at least a rear-but here there ain't neither front nor rear. It's all a --- mess And our two armies ain't nothin' but howlin' mobs! I'm a bettin' there ain't a General, from old Grant and Marse Robert down, that knows

a -- thing about whar his troops is, or what I'm afraid the old Texan was more than half right. But he sat there and contentedly sopped his game leg with a spare sponge while he the Second Corps had been forced at the in- gnawed at a hardtack that one of the artillerymen had given him

> However, the battle of the Wilderness was a stand-off all round, we thought. If I had been



A MURDEROUS SHOT. referee I should have decided it "a draw" and "declared all bets off." We had lost heavily; but so had the Johnnies, and, as it proved, we could afford it better than they could. As a factor in that the battle of the Wilderness was a disaster to the rebel cause on the whole. But they had made the most of their advantages of position

and the nature of the ground; they had fought better than ever before; and though we were considerably superior to them in total numbers, the peculiarity of the situation-broken country and thick brush, where every wood road and cow-path was well known to them and advantage. We lost more men than they did; but their losses were larger than ours, reckoned by percentage of numbers engaged.

And we could repair our losses, while they could not replace their dead and disabled men. Hence, I assert that the battle of the Wilderness was to all intents and purposes a defeat for the robels.

SPOTTSYLVANIA.

We staid at the Lacey House all day the 7th tinctly hear the yells of the troops. As the of May, and at night moved down by the Brock road to a place where the road forks, near rily expected an attack along the pike, which | awhile and got our breakfast.

Gen. Warren, Gen. Wainwright, and some of Spottsylvania Courthouse. the battery commanders-Stewart among them

except to get ready for an apprehended attack, | the enemy's works with Robinson's Division; | said to have ended his days amid

Gen. Robinson was badly wounded, and his Alsop's House. It may seem queer for a Cannoneer to criticize such a splendid officer as he was not cautious here. I think he should have made us pound them awhile before assaulting with the infantry. That was what he did after the first repulse, and I think he should have done it at first.

Another thing to be considered is that the march the night before had been very hard and fatiguing to the infantry, who not only marched several miles, but had been compelled to help clear the road of trees that the rebels had felled across it in their retreat, and, as this was early in the morning, they had not rested a bit, except to breakfast on hardtack, pork and cold water, there having been no chance to make coffee.

After the war I met C n. Warren at the Eb-bitt House, in Washingt ... d having known him before, I said very much these same things



the rebels had only reached that point the same morning, or late that night, and so he thought they could not have intrenched much. and hence the best thing to do was to attack them at once, before they could get a chance to dig. But if he had known that they had been there all night, as was afterward clearly ascertained, he would have attacked with the artillery first and put the infantry in after-

However, after the repulse of Robinson's Division, it was apparent that they would have to be pretty well shaken up with artillery before infantry could do anything,

AND THEN CAME OUR TURN. It had long been the rule in Wainwright's Artillery Brigade, when any serious close-quarters work was to be done, to "order Stewart up." So ours and Martin's (Walcott's) Massatance beyond Alsop's Hase, forming an artillery front line of 12 guas, while Winslow's (N. (.) and Rittenhouse's were in support nearer the house. I cannot remember what Mink and Cooper were doing just at that time. In this manner Stewart and Walcott engaged 12 or 14 guns of the enemy, well posted. Just back of the Alson House the Brock road forks, making what the inhabitants there call the "old road" and the "new road," The "new road" is the easterly one of the two. They come together again just before reaching the Spindler House, where the rebels had made their earthwork across the road, with redoubts in the form of bastions raking its front or taking the road from either side en echarpe. In these works almost in my face, killed one man and woundthey had several guns mounted-probably about | ed several others; but I was not hurt, except a 12 or 14-and long flanking breastworks on either side full of infantry. The thick brush came up close to the "old road," on the west, while the "new road," on the east, ran along the bank of a little ravine or gully formed by rivulets that headed right in front of the rebel works, and ran north into the Ny. The space between the two roads was mostly an "old field," with little clumps of staut pine and jack-oak trees, all bare and desolate-looking, as good for nothing except to fight a battle on. The place where we unlimbered was, it seemed to me, unfavorable. The ground rose a little in our front, so that we could not see the rebels' heads over the low crest. I have always thought we would have done our work better if we had gone on the higher ground to our right and unlimbered there; though, of course, that would have brought us within easy musketrange of their flanking works, which was not the case where we were. However, the old battery was used to "easy musket-range," and we always had a partiality

for point-blank business. Be this as it may, we went in here and opened with case, sighting the gons to graze the low crest in our front. The enemy replied with spirit, and one of the first men hit in the battery was Lieut. Thomas Goodman, commanding the left section, in which I then was. This Lieut. Goodman had recently joined us, and was only serving with our battery temporarily.

As the firing began he said something to erg't Thorpe or Sanborn, and had hardly got the words out of his mouth when he was hit. feil mortally wounded, and died a few days afterward. The practice was very difficult. If we cleared the crest is our front the case-shot

EXPLODE IN THE AIR OR GO CLEAR OVER. Hence it was necessary to "graze" them and let them explode as they struck, which would send their bullets and fragments tumbling in on top of the rebels in their redoubts. This, as any artillerist knows, is the very hardest kind of practice. If the crest is close to you, all you have to do is reduce your powder charge till you get the exact range, and then you can drop your shells or case right on the top of them, mortarfashion. But in this affair the crest was close to the rebels and distant from us, so that we couldn't make "mortar-practice," but, as above stated, had to explode our case-shot "on the graze," to do any execution. On the contrary, the rebels had a chance of mortar-practice" at us, as above explained,

and they certainly made the most of it. However, we rapidly got the upper-hand as soon as we established our range, and in about half an hour they ceased to reply. Griffin's Infantry Division was now brought forward, and we limbered up and took a new position to our right of the east road, close to the edge of the woods, and near the crest of the high ground. Rittenhouse came up on our right, but as the ground was not advantageous, did not form there, but went further over near the south fork of the road, and formed with one of the New York batteries-Mink's, I believe-on the other side of the Brock road. As I remember now, Rittenhouse was wounded here, but whether tion, almost on the ground, and in a manner exactly similar to this one, but, strange to severely or not I cannot recall. (At all events, I know that I saw him about two weeks after, say, it

in command of his battery, in front of Jericho It was now pretty near noon, May 8. All the infantry of the Fifth Corps was in position, and Wright's Division, of the Sixth, was filing out

gaptured his corpse, and they had stopped teries—Cooper, I think—were ordered into discovered that the enemy was busily intreachin front of our guns at the edge of the Lacey | position to command the pike, but only Rit- ing across the Brock road in front of a house of water to drinky our canteens having been | shot and shells howled just over our heads, or

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Corps back to the Spottswood House, which apprehend the strength of the rebel position. water and fire; for the enemy had come out of leans, Maj. George Dupre, says that their fuses party, wounding and capturing one of themfantry or artiflery, was involved in this affair, road as flankers, and then proceeded to assault Johnson-who never came back, and who was have been. Whereas, he says, nearly every

THE HORRORS OF ANDERSONVILLE sometime afterward. Bill was a good, honest and as his time would have been out in a few

weeks his fate was particularly hard. At this time it was apparent that Gen. Warren intended to repeat his assault with the infantry. Bartlett's Veteran Brigade now defiled into the edge of the brush, past our right, | fuses on my own account. and deployed out toward the slashed woods on the left front of the rebel works. I had a cousin in this brigade in one of the New York | Stewart, except the little flurry at nightfall on lett's attack, and his Captain (Rexford) told me | ing operated independently of his the first day.

As I said, Bartlett's Veteran Brigade swept abundant opportunity to show his skill as an by our right, deployed, and in five minutes that artillerist. He got hurt in one leg someway, eternal crash of musketry began again. We probably by a stone torn up by a grazing shot, could now see that the enemy had pulled his or perhaps a piece of spent shell, but paid no guns out of his advanced works and was posi- attention to it. He went along from gun to tioning them in the heavier retrenched work | gun, instructing the gunners and praising the in his second line, leaving only infantry in his | Cannonneers. He would watch a shot, and old works at the forks of the mad.

That Bartlett would have water Some of his men did get into the enemy's works on their right, but had to get out again in con- her right there!" James Laird, of Nebraska, then a private sol- knew. we held during the rest of the fighting about Spottsylvania Courthouse. At night our battery was withdrawn to an inner line nearer our first position.

The first day of Spottsvlvania was over. Night settled down on the scene, and a cold, trizzling rain fell nearly till morning. Our osses were three men killed, three mortally wounded, and eight or 10 wounded, of whom six were disabled, besides five or six others far as I recollect, had little or no effect. It slightly hit.

The phenomenally large percentage of killed to wounded was due to the fact that the casualties were all from artillery fire, all the men hit being struck by solid shot or pieces of shell or case-shot. Lieut, Goodman was hit in the head, and fell after staggering about 10 feet.

AS SOON AS LIEUT, GOODMAN FELL Stewart, who, with all his courage and even ferocity in battle, could never bear to see one of his men die, turned and went out of the section toward the right of the battery. But Goodman got right up, and, though his head was bleeding, appeared to be not badly hurt. The ball had just grazed his head without nenetrating the skull. It was doubtless one of the flying missiles from an exploding case-shot. Serg't Thorpe, commanding the No. 1 gun of our section, picked up Goodman's cap and handed it to him. The shot had driven the crosscannons of the artillery clear through the cap. chusetts battery were now ordered up some dis- Goodman took the cap, thanked Sarg's Thorpefor his attention, and said, laughingly: "It's only a scratch, but it was a close call.' he almost instantly fainted. He was then taken to the rear, and died in a few days. It was said that a blood vessel in his brain was ruptured, and that he died of internal hemorrhage on the brain. I have no doubt but that the round balls contained in case-shot struck a much harder blow when they only grazed the bone than the conical rifle-bullets would do. Stewart was much affected by the death of Goodman, as he was a gallant officer, and had been with us only a few days.

I was knocked down in our first position by the air concussion of a shell, which exploded queer numbuess about my head and temporary

ONE MAN'S HEAD WAS PARTLY SHOT OFF. and he was a frightful spectacle! I actually saw his skull fly! He must have been struck in the face by an unexploded shell or solid shot, and never knew what hurt him.

For the same reason that made such a fearful percentage of killed in this fight, the injuries nassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. We all sympathized with him, but it was the "fortune of war."

I have often thought of the queer vagaries of shot in a cannonade. This artillery duel at Spottsylvania lasted about half an hour, and during that time the air was literally alive they are screened from you so that you cannot | tween two fires" like myself, and then I can with all kinds of projectiles. I do not know how many shell and case-shot burst in and over the battery, but in our section all the cas- fire can be judged only by its evident effect on ualties resulted from one solitary case-shot, excepting the one that killed Goodman. This case-shot was "a corker." It killed

Root, mortally wounded Van Dusen, wounded one of the Johnsons and Wilkison severely, and Sanborn and Serg't Thorpe slightly, and



TAD NEGOTIATES FOR TARTAR. knocked me down by the concussion, besides shaking up the men on the left gun of the conter section, though not hurting any of them. It exploded close to the ground, right in the interval between the two guns of the section, about 20 feet forward of the muzzle, the most effective possible place for a case-shot to explode. They exploded a shell in the right sec-

DID NOT DO ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE. This was the first time I had been under a heavy and well-sustained caunonade. My previous experience had been chiefly with charging lines of the enemy's infantry, as at the into the Alson clearing immediately behind us, Gettysburg Railroad Cut, with a few shells | blood"; without which no man was ever al-The battle of this day is called by some " Laurel | thrown in for variety; while, as before related, | lowed to go out of action in Stewart's battery. Spottsylvania Courthouse. Here we halted Hill," by others "Alsop's Field," etc.; but I we took no part worth mentioning in the great But after I was knocked down by the concusright, was being driven in, and we all momenta early in the morning of the 8th, and rested | will call it the first day of Spottsylvania - artillery duel of the third day of Gettysburg. sion, before mentioned, and got up again and because it was really part of the great battle of But here at Spottsylvania it was a regular saw what havoe had been made, this feeling At this point I will explain that as we were advantage of position and lay of the ground we had got the exact range and fuse-time just ley, he said to me: 'Miss Rawlins, I am very tenhouse, ours and one of the volunteer bat- -reconnoitered further down the road, and now on the high ground where there were no largely in favor of the enemy. He served his about then, we began to fire more rapidly than

I have since learned that our antagonists there was a little hollow, in which it was sup- New Orleans, and McCarthy's Virginia battery. My informant, now a journalist in New Orcase were little better than solid shot would one of our case-shot

BURST RIGHT IN THEIR FACES, so that, notwithstanding that they were parfellow, not over bright, but brave and faithful; tially covered by the slight redoubts they had made during the latter part of the night, we soon made the position untenable. However, quite enough of their shells and case burst properly to meet all my requirements. I must not be understood as finding fault with their

This was also the first time I had been in close action under the immediate command of regiments-the 44th. He was killed in Bart- July 2 at Gettysburg, our left half-battery havafterward that he "never knew what hurt as before described. But here we were all together, in close order, and the Old Man had when he saw the dirt fly from the crest where . at | the shot grazed and then exploded he would the first dash is certain but for the slashing. | slap the gunner on the back and tell him, "You've got her just right, now, my son; keep

sequence of the others not being able to get | He got a brevet of Captain for that day's through the slashing. I heard that the 16th | work, and right well did he deserve it, too. I Mich, had their colors planted on the enemy's | have always considered the work of Stewart's breastwork for some minutes in this charge, battery the first day of Spottsylvania as the waiting for the 834 Pa. and 44th N. Y. to get | finest piece of purely artillery practice under through the slashing. The late Congressman | difficulties of position and ground that I ever

dier in the 16th Mich., is my authority for this. | Stewart was very proud of the performance Gen. Bartlett himself says that his brigade took | of the battery at Spottsylvania the 8th of May. a few prisoners from some part of these works. Prior to that time the history of the battery But, on the whole, Bartlett was repulsed from | had been mainly rough-and-tumble fights with the rebel main line, though his troops and infantry at close quarters, which involved simthose of Ayres did not retire very far, but took | ple " slugging " with double-canister, as at Anup and intrenched our line on the crest, which | tietam and Gettysburg, with very little opportunity for nice artillery practice. At Fredericksburg the battery had engaged the enemy's artillery at a fair range, and had driven one of one of his guns and blowing up a caisson or two. But this fight at Spottsylvania was purely an artillery combat, undisturbed by infantry fire, except occasional pot-shots by sharpshooters at very long range, which, so was fought under circumstances of position and ground calculated to bring into play all the skill and precision that an Artilleryman can command. The enemy was screened from point-blank fire by an elevation in his front, and was, besides, protected by slight epaulements of earth and logs, which he had thrown | capital "I's" that an outsider might be led to up during the previous night; while we had no protection whatever. On all sides there was universal praise for the behavior of the battery -from Gens. Warren, Griffin, Cutler, Bartlett, Ayres, and Wainwright, Chief of Artillery of the Fifth Corps. Walcott's 3d Mass. battery, in line with us, though at some little distance, was also superbly served; though, as it was not in such an exposed position as we were in. and, besides, as the enemy seemed to concentrate his fire more on us, the Bay State boys did not suffer as much as we did. Their loss, as I remember, was about 12 men killed and wounded to our 20-odd. Stewart afterward wrote a very fine report of this engagement, mentioning a good many of the boys and calling Gen. Walnwright's attention to their conduct. This report should appear when the War Records are published. A protracted artillery duel, such as we had at Spottsylvania, is by no means so stirring an event as a closequarter fight with charging infantry, like we had at the Gettysburg Railroad Cut, or at the Antietam Cornfield, and hence does not admit of such vivid description. When a battery is fighting infantry in that way, it is simply an exchange of double-canister for musketry, and while in such cases the casualties are almost ai-

ways severe, if the infantry stands up to its work well, the conditions of the fight will be exciting and inspiring to the Cannoneers, so that they will not, for the time being, realize the full extent of their danger, but will be absorbed by a desire to destroy the infantry in their front. For this reason a well-trained battery always appears at its best when resisting an infantry charge, as at the | he helped Howard and his Germans to get Gettysburg Railroad Cut, or when standing up to its work against a heavy and destructive fire of infantry under cover at close range, as at the Antietam Cornfield. Such situations stir the blood of the most sluggish Cannoneer, nerve him of the wounded were all severe. Of the to almost incredible deeds, and make him obliviwounded two or three lost limbs. One of these | ous of his peril. There is nothing that can stir was a Wisconsin man, whose time-three years | the latent heroism of a Cannoneer like the sight | -was out in a few days. He had been with of the waist-belts of the enemy's infantry comthe battery since 1861, and was one of the best | ing on! Then the only thing he has to do is to men in it. He felt that it was pretty hard luck | chuck in the canister as fast as he can and get to lose a leg just at the end of a gallant career, it out again as quick as he can, without blowing after escaping, as he had, the carnage of Ma- his "Number 1" from the muzzle as the English used to do with the Sepoys in the Indian Mutiny. But you get none of the benefit of this excitement when you are fighting batteries, at

fair range, in an artillery duel pure and simple. If they are in plain sight it is better. But is see your foe, as was the case with us at Spottsylvania, so that your range and the result of your the enemy, every man in the battery, from Captain to Connoueer, is subjected to a great mental and moral strain, without the compensating effects of excitement or enthusiasm. On such occasions the guns will be loaded carefully. often reducing the charges by spilling some of Raccoon Ford, in 1863, a Col. Hughey, who the powder on the ground. If firing shell or had injured his knee and ankle by his horse case, there may be a debate between the Sergeant and the Gunner about the time of the falling upon him, remained at Mr. Rickard's fuse. Then there may be another debate about | house, with an attendant. When Gregg was the elevation of the piece. In the meantime driven back he made a stand near Stevens the air above you will be blue with the mingled flame and smoke of the enemy's shells; his ricochet shot will be filling your eyes full of Killdee house was throwing shells around so dirt; his exploding case will be killing or close that Col. Hughey told our (Rickard's) wounding your comrades in every direction. But you must stick to your post in perfectly exciting circumstance. If you are killed it will be by a solid shot taking your head off, or tearing out your vitals, or cutting you in two; if wounded, it will be by jagged pieces of iron shell tearing your poor body in agonizing gashes, or by the equally horrible holes made by the flying ounce balls of iron with which the case-shot

Taking my experience as a whole, I think it is always easier for a battery to face infantry at close-quarters, with all the attendant excitement and enthusiasm of such a fight, than to stand up under a cold-blooded and methodical cannonade such as we had at Spottsylvania. It is doubtless hardly proper for a man to refer to his own conduct in battle, because he is not a good a judge of it, and had better leave that to others. But I will say that, while I always had faith that I would pull through the war all right, as related in a conversation with Packard on the old field of Antietam, I was really scared in this cannouade at Spottsylvania. The feeling was different from that experienced at Gettysburg; or, in fact, different from that experienced in any other battle. I had at first an intense desire to get away. But of course I knew that I could not do that without incurring | conducted us back about a mile to Mr. J. everlasting disgrace, even if I did not get sho by the Captain or Lieutenant with their ready revolvers, if I attempted to run. I thought I would be glad to get a slight wound from a piece of shell, so as to be able to "fly the red flag" as we used to say-that is, to "show "slugging match" between batteries, with the vanished. Then I became enraged; and, as

(Continued on 3d page.)

An Old Virginian's Experiences During

HIDING UNDER THE BED

How Virginia Damsels Amused Themselves.

DARKY WEDDING.

The Way Kilpatrick Took Possession of Winter Quarters.

BY WM. E. DOYLE, STEVENSBURG, VA.



supposed that one poor old individual could have all the suffering, hardship and privation of the war to himself, and take all the experiences on his own shoulders. While I saw a good deal, and kept my eyes open, my neighbors and friends also had much experience; atrobioni IIn se bre came the talk of the

his batteries out of action, after dismounting | County, I will give some of their narratives. It may look better for me. When I was in Washington, after the war as a witness before the Southern Claims Commission, I went into a lagerbeer saloon to rest myself. At the table next to me sat one of the unchapleted heroes of the Union army, and he was giving a description of the battle of Gettysburg to an admiring friend, in which he had so many



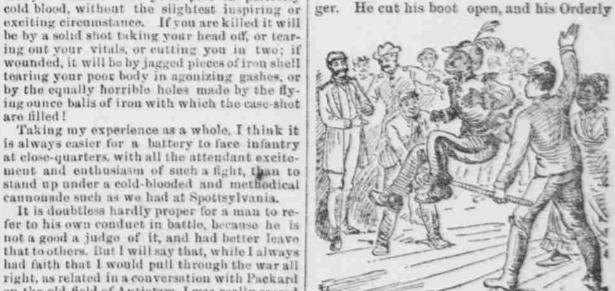
GOOD-BY, SWEETHEART, THE YANKS ARE COMING.

imagine that he whipped Bob Lee singlehanded. He had drawn off the lines of the opposing armies with the tip of his finger and the spilled beer on the table, and then the action commenced. First, he went with Reynolds and jumped on to Hill on the Chambersburg road with both feet. Next, out of their snap and into position. Then he took a fresh glass of beer while he had a chat with Hancock. Then he fought all over the Round Tops, Cemetery Ridge and Culp's Hill, and at last, when Pickett's men charged, jumped in behind the stone wall, with Hays on his right and Gibbon on his left, and welcomed them

"WITH GORY HANDS TO HOSPITABLE GRAVES."

I do not want to be weighed as I know I sized up that young man, and so, with your kind permission, I will jot down what some of the others have to say, who were "bewith an easier feeling recount further facts

Miss Sarah E. Rawlins, of Stevensburg, Va., tells me: "We had frequent fights and skirmishes around our house during the war. When Gen. Gregg went down to the burg, and the Confederate battery at the folks that they must come back out of dan-



A DARKY WEDDING.

helped him onto his horse, and taking charge of Mr. Rickard and his family he Stout's, where he left us, and waving his hand in adieu went and joined the retreating Federal line on the Brandy road. We have not heard from him since that time.

"When the Union troops came in here to Winter, in the Fall of 1863, Gen. Kilpatrick made our house his headquarters. I became very well acquainted with all the staff, and one day, in conversation with Dr. C. E. Hackwell acquainted with a gentleman of your name who is Gen. Grant's Adjutant-General.